This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

19. (New) An information utilization apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

a plurality of decoding units provided respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization and configured to decode the first data stored in the memory;

a plurality of processing units arranged respectively corresponding to the plurality of decoding units and configured to respectively execute operations corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization using second data obtained from decoding the first data;

a judging unit configured to judge if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time; and

an operation command issuing unit configured to issue a command for action to a decoding unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request when the judging unit judges that the requested operation is executable.

20. (New) An information utilization apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

a decoding unit configured to decode the first data stored in the memory;

a data storage unit configured to store second data obtained from decoding the first data;

a plurality of processing units configured to respectively execute operations corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization using the second data stored in the data storage unit;

a judging unit configured to judge if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time; and

an operation command issuing unit configured to issue commands for actions to the decoding unit and a processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request if the second data is not stored in the data storage unit and configured to issue a command for action to the processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request if the second data is stored in the data storage unit when the judging unit judges that the requested operation is executable.

21. (New) An information utilization apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

a plurality of decoding units provided respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization and configured to decode the first data stored in the memory;

a plurality of processing units arranged respectively corresponding to the plurality of decoding units and configured to respectively execute operations corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization using second data obtained from decoding the first data;

a judging unit configured to judge if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time;

an operation command issuing unit configured to issue a command for action to a decoding unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request in a case where the judging unit judges that the requested operation is executable; and

an operation command reserving unit configured to prevent the issuance of the command to the decoding unit until a current time reaches the executable time period when the judging unit does not judge that the requested operation is executable.

22. (New) An information utilization apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

a decoding unit configured to decode the first data stored in the memory;

a data storage unit configured to store second data obtained from decoding the first data;

a plurality of processing units configured to respectively execute operations corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization using the second data stored in the data storage unit;

a judging unit configured to judge if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time;

an operation command issuing unit configured to issue commands for actions to the decoding unit and a processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request if the second data is not stored in the data storage unit and configured to issue a command for action to the processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request if the second data is stored in the data storage unit when the judging unit judges that the requested operation is executable; and

an operation command reserving unit configured to prevent the issuance of the command to the decoding unit until a current time reaches the executable time period when the judging unit does not judge that the requested operation is executable.

23. (New) An information access control method for use in an information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores information including encoded first data, the method comprising:

storing, in the memory, the first data encoded and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

judging if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time;

decoding the first data stored in the memory by a decoding unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request when the judgment indicates that the requested operation is executable, the decoding unit being one of a plurality of decoding units provided respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization; and

executing the requested operation using second data obtained from decoding the first data by a processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request, the processing unit being one of a plurality of processing units arranged respectively corresponding to the plurality of decoding units.

24. (New) An information access control method for use in an information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores information including encoded first data, the method comprising:

storing, in the memory, the encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

judging if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time;

decoding the first data stored in the memory by a decoding unit when the judgment indicates that the requested operation is executable;

storing, in a data storage unit, second data obtained from decoding the first data;

executing the requested operation using the second data stored in the data storage unit by a processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request, the

processing unit being one of a plurality of processing units which respectively execute operations corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization; and

executing another requested operation using the second data stored in the data storage unit, upon another request for operation execution, by a processing unit corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by another request in a case where the judgment indicates that the another requested operation is executable.

25.   (New) An information access control method for use in an information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores information including encoded first data, the method comprising:

storing, in the memory, the encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

judging if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time;

decoding the first data stored in the memory by a decoding unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request when the judgment indicates that the requested operation is executable, the decoding unit being one of a plurality of decoding units provided respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

preventing the decoding of the first data until a current time reaches the executable time period in a case where the judgment does not indicate that the requested operation is executable, and decoding the first data by the decoding unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request after a current time reaches the executable time period; and

executing the requested operation using second data obtained from decoding the first data by a processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request, the processing unit being one of a plurality of processing units arranged respectively corresponding to the plurality of decoding units.

26. (New) An information access control method for use in an information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores information including encoded first data, the method comprising:

storing, in the memory, the encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

judging if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time;

decoding the first data stored in the memory by a decoding unit when the judgment indicates that the requested operation is executable;

preventing the decoding of the first data until a current time reaches the executable time period when the judgment does not indicate that the requested operation is executable, and decoding the first data by the decoding unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request after a current time reaches the executable time period;

storing, in a data storage unit, second data obtained from decoding the first data;

executing the requested operation using the second data stored in the data storage unit by a processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request, the processing unit being one of a plurality of processing units which respectively execute operations corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization; and

executing another requested operation using the second data stored in the data storage unit, upon another request for operation execution, by a processing unit corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by another request, when the judgment indicates that the another requested operation is executable or after a current time reaches the executable time period when the judgment does not indicate that the another requested operation is executable.

27. (New) A storage medium having program code instructions stored thereon which perform information access control when executed by a processor in an information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores information including encoded first data, the instructions comprising:

storing, in the memory, the encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

judging if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time;

decoding the first data stored in the memory by a decoding unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request when the judgment indicates that the requested operation is executable, the decoding unit being one of a plurality of decoding units provided respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization; and

executing the requested operation using second data obtained from decoding the first data by a processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request, the processing unit being one of a plurality of processing units arranged respectively corresponding to the plurality of decoding units.

28. (New) A storage medium having program code instructions stored thereon which perform information access control when executed by a processor in an information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores information including encoded first data, the instructions comprising:

storing, in the memory, the encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

judging if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time;

decoding the first data stored in the memory by a decoding unit when the judgment indicates that the requested operation is executable;

storing, in a data storage unit, second data obtained from decoding the first data;

executing the requested operation using the second data stored in the data storage unit by a processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request, the processing unit being one of a plurality of processing units which respectively execute operations corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization; and

executing another requested operation using the second data stored in the data storage unit, upon another request for operation execution, by a processing unit corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by another request when the judgment indicates that the another requested operation is executable.

29.   (New) A storage medium having program code instructions stored thereon which perform information access control when executed by a processor in an information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores information including encoded first data, the instructions comprising:

storing, in the memory, the encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

judging if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time;

decoding the first data stored in the memory by a decoding unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request in a case where the judgment indicates that the requested operation is executable, the decoding unit being one of a plurality of decoding units provided respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

preventing the decoding of the first data until a current time reaches the executable time period in a case where the judgment does not indicate that the requested operation is executable, and decoding the first data by the decoding unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request after a current time reaches the executable time period; and

executing the requested operation using second data obtained from decoding the first data by a processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request, the

processing unit being one of a plurality of processing units arranged respectively corresponding to the plurality of decoding units.

30. (New) A storage medium having program code instructions stored thereon which perform information access control when executed by a processor in an information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores information including encoded first data, the instructions comprising:

storing, in the memory, the encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization;

judging if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time;

decoding the first data stored in the memory by a decoding unit when the judgment indicates that the requested operation is executable;

preventing the decoding of the first data until a current time reaches the executable time period when the judgment does not indicate that the requested operation is executable, and decoding the first data by the decoding unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request after a current time reaches the executable time period;

storing, in a data storage unit, second data obtained from decoding the first data;

executing the requested operation using the second data stored in the data storage unit by a processing unit corresponding to the mode of utilization indicated by the request, the processing unit being one of a plurality of processing units which respectively execute operations corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization; and

executing another requested operation using the second data stored in the data storage unit, upon another request for operation execution, by a processing unit corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by another request, when the judgment indicates that the another requested operation is executable or after a current time reaches the executable time period when the judgment does not indicate that the another requested operation is executable.